

# NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

## Information Letter

For the information of N. C. A. members exclusively  
Publication or reproduction not permitted

No. 348

Washington, D. C.

March 29, 1936

### CONTENTS

#### Page

	Page		Page
Radio campaign making new records.	1909	Department store trade in February.	1917
Stations carrying program	1909	New publication on aphid control	1917
Concerning station WFAM	1910	Business conditions	1918
This is real cooperation	1911	Intended acreage in dry edible beans.	1918
Tariff bill ready for conference	1911	Army seeks bids on canned foods	1919
Bahama tomato shipments to United States	1914	Trade practice conference for bottle cap manufacturers	1919
Truck crop markets	1914	Early spraying of tomatoes recommended	1919
Tomato products imports	1915	Seed corn should be tested	1920
Hawaiian pineapple crop	1915	Forecast of Porto Rican grapefruit pack	1920
Canned foods exports in February	1916	Pineapple canning project in Mauritius revived	1920
Fruit crop prospects	1916		
Evaporated and condensed milk market	1917		

### RADIO CAMPAIGN MAKING NEW RECORDS

The second week of the broadcasting campaign might well be called an embarrassing success, for the response from listeners continues to tax the office facilities. Up to the close of the week over twenty thousand communications had been received from the radio audience and these letters reveal not only an interest in the programs, but a desire to obtain practical information about the canning industry and its products.

From the program point of view, there is absolutely no question of the success of the broadcast. The interest of the radio audience has been secured and is being maintained.

What is needed to make the campaign a genuine business success is the full cooperation of the trade in merchandising.

Toward this end canners, as well as distributors, must do their part if the broadcasting is to have a dollar and cents value.

Canners are urged to follow the programs from day to day and to make every effort to arouse the distributors to the opportunity they have to cash in on a coast-to-coast interest in canned foods such as has never before been attained.

### Stations Carrying Program

Following is a list of the stations in the Eastern and Central states from which the radio programs are being broadcast at 11.45 A. M. Eastern, and 10.45 A. M. Central time.

Some of these stations are not broadcasting all four days—Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday—but arrangements are under way to have them later carry the full program.

WEAF New York  
WEEI Boston

WEBC Duluth—Superior  
WRVA Richmond

WJAR Providence	WPTF Raleigh
WTAG Worcester	WBT Charlotte
WCSH Portland	WJAX Jacksonville
WRC Washington	WHAS Louisville
WGY Schenectady	WMC Memphis
WGR Buffalo	WSB Atlanta
WCAE Pittsburgh	WJDX Jackson
WWJ Detroit	WSMB New Orleans
WSAI Cincinnati	WKY Oklahoma City
WIBO Chicago	KTHS Hot Springs
KSD St. Louis	KPRC Houston
WDAF Kansas City	WOAI San Antonio
KSTP St. Paul—Minneapolis	CKGW Toronto
WAPI Birmingham	
WTAM Cleveland	Mondays and Thursdays
WTIC Hartford	Tuesdays and Thursdays
WLIT Philadelphia	Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
WOC Davenport	Tuesdays and Thursdays
WHO Des Moines	Wednesdays
WOW Omaha	Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays
WTMJ Milwaukee	Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays starting March 31
WIOD Miami	Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays
KVOO Tulsa	Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays
WSM Nashville	Mondays and Tuesdays

The programs on the Pacific Coast and in the Mountain states will be started on March 31 at 11.45 A. M. Pacific, and 12.45 P. M. Mountain time, over the following stations:

KOA Denver	KOMO Seattle
KSL Salt Lake	KHQ Spokane
KGO San Francisco	KECA Los Angeles
KGW Portland	

#### Concerning Station WTAM

Since the beginning of the broadcasting campaign a number of letters have been received from distributors and canners asking why station WTAM at Cleveland was not included in the list of those carrying the programs.

It has been explained to those inquiring that WTAM was included under the regular rates of the National Broadcasting Company, but that the station was unwilling to take the business at these regular rates, requesting a large additional compensation. These rates, it is understood, are fixed by the Radio Commission.

Arrangements have been effected by local interests in Cleveland territory by which the programs will hereafter be carried by WTAM on Monday and Thursday mornings.

It is regretted that the entire program is not going on the air through the Cleveland station. The National Canners Association has made every effort consistent with good business to comply with the wishes of both the canners and distributors interested in the audience reached by WTAM, and hopes that later the arrangements may be made to carry the program four days of each week.

#### This is Real Cooperation

One way that canners, brokers and wholesalers may cooperate in the radio broadcasting campaign is revealed by a letter received from a visitor who happened in a Chicago broker's office at the hour of the morning broadcast when Dr. Walter H. Eddy spoke on vitamins. The visitor, who was unaware that any such program was to be on the air, wrote to the Association saying:

"At 10.35 all the available chairs in the place were gathered and placed around a radio—then all work ceased and the employees filed into the office and occupied the chairs. I among the others was invited to become one of the audience, and ignorant but curious I accepted. Then came the announcement and Dr. Eddy of Columbia presented a very lucid discourse on vitamins in canned foods.

"What occasions this letter is the appreciation of the very effective manner in which this firm did its bit toward making the plan an economic success. I wonder how many others, even including the canners themselves, have and are contributing in a like manner, the tremendous advantage of which, if practiced 100 per cent by canners, wholesale houses and kindred firms, is at once obvious. To forestall any excuse that a radio is lacking, I understand the one used was rented for the period of broadcasting."

#### Tariff Bill Ready for Conference

With the passage of the tariff bill by the Senate on March 24, the next step toward its final enactment will be its consideration by conference committees representing the House and Senate, whose task will be to agree upon a report that will be acceptable to both branches of Congress. Besides the differences in rates adopted by the House and Senate, the outstanding questions to be decided are the provisions relating to the Tariff Commission and the debenture proposals.

The following statement shows the rates proposed under the House and Senate bills as compared with those of the present tariff, the Act of 1922, on the principal articles in which the

canning industry is interested. Changes in phraseology and classification not shown in the table are covered by footnotes at the end of the statement:

	Present rate	House bill	Senate bill
Bacon, hams and shoulders and other pork, prepared or preserved.	2c per lb.	3½c per lb.	3½c per lb.
Meats * * prepared or preserved, not specially provided for.	20% ad val.	6c per lb. but not less than 20% ad val.	6c per lb. but not less than 20% ad val.
Milk, condensed or evaporated, in air-tight containers.			
Unsweetened .....	1c per lb.	1.4c per lb.	1.4c per lb.
Sweetened .....	1½c per lb.	2½c per lb.	2½c per lb.
Birds * * prepared or preserved in any manner and not specially provided for.	35% ad val.	10c per lb.	10c per lb.
Fish, except shellfish, prepared or preserved in any manner, when packed in oil or in oil and other substances.			
Fish, prepared or preserved in any manner, when packed in air-tight containers weighing with their contents not more than 15 pounds each (except fish packed in oil and other substances):	20% ad val.	20% ad val.	20% ad val.
Salmon .....	25% ad val.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.
Other fish .....	25% ad val.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.
Crab meat, fresh or frozen (whether or not packed in ice), or prepared or preserved in any manner, including crab paste or crab sauce.	15% ad val.	18% ad val.	15% ad val.
Clams, clam juice, or either in combination with other substances packed in air-tight containers.	Free	25% ad val.	20% ad val.
Fish paste and fish mucus.	20% ad val.	20% ad val.	20% ad val.
Caviar and other fish roes . . . . . if boiled and packed in air-tight containers, whether or not in bouillon or sauce. 6	20% ad val.	20% ad val.	20% ad val.
Oysters, oyster juice, or either in combination with other substances packed in air-tight containers.	Free	Free	2c per lb.
Apples * * otherwise prepared or preserved and not specially provided for.	2½c per lb.	2½c per lb.	2½c per lb.
Apricots * * otherwise prepared or preserved and not specially provided for.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.
Berries:			
Otherwise prepared or preserved, or frozen, and not specially provided for. b	25% ad val.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.
Cherries:			
Sulphured or in brine, with pits.	2c per lb.	3½c per lb.	3½c per lb.
Sulphured or in brine, pits removed.	2c per lb.	3½c per lb.	3½c per lb.
Marschino, candied, crystallized, or glace, or frozen if sweetened, or prepared or preserved, in any manner.	40% ad val.	5½c per lb. and 40% ad val.	5½c per lb. and 40% ad val.
Pigs * * prepared or preserved, and not specially provided for.	25% ad val.	40% ad val.	40% ad val.
Dates, prepared or preserved, and not specially provided for.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.
Olives * * not specially provided for.	25% ad val.	2c per lb.	2c per lb.
Peaches * * otherwise prepared or preserved, and not specially provided for.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.
Pineapples * * otherwise prepared or preserved, and not specially provided for.	2c per lb.	2c per lb.	2c per lb.

	Present rate	House bill	Senate bill
Plums, prunes, and prunellas *** otherwise prepared or preserved and not specially provided for.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.
Pears *** otherwise prepared or preserved and not specially provided for.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.
Jams, jellies, marmalades, and fruit butters.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.
Fruits *** otherwise prepared or preserved and not specially provided for, and mixtures of two or more fruits, prepared or preserved.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.
Fruit pastes and fruit pulps . . . .	25% ad val.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.
Garden or field seeds, not specially provided for.	6c per lb.	6c per lb.	6c per lb.
Beans and black-eyed cowpeas: c			
Dried . . . .	2c per lb.	2½c per lb.	2c per lb.
Prepared or preserved in any manner.	2c per lb.	2c per lb.	2c per lb.
Mushrooms *** otherwise prepared or preserved.	45% ad val.	10c per lb. and 60% ad val.	10c per lb. and 45% ad val.
Peas: d			
Green . . . .	1c per lb.	2c per lb.	2c per lb.
Prepared or preserved . . . .	2c per lb.	2c per lb.	2c per lb.
Tomatoes: e			
Fresh . . . .	½c per lb.	2c per lb.	2c per lb.
Prepared or preserved in any manner.	15% ad val.	40% ad val.	50% ad val.
Vegetables, cut, sliced, or otherwise reduced in size, or if reduced to flour, or if parched or roasted, or if pickled, or if packed in salt, brine, or oil, or preserved in any other way and not specially provided for.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.
Sauces of all kinds, not specially provided for.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.
Soups, soup rolls, soup tablets or cubes, and other soup preparations, pastes, pulps, puddings, hash, and all similar forms composed of vegetables or of vegetables and meat or fish, or both, and not specially provided for.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.	25% ad val.
Sauerkraut . . . .	25% ad val. 6c per lb.	25% ad val. 6c per lb.	25% ad val. 6c per lb.
Pimientos, whole, cut, sliced, or otherwise reduced in size, packed in brine or in oil or prepared or preserved in any manner. f	Free	Free	Free
Patna rice, cleaned for use in the manufacture of canned soups.	Free	Free	Free
Sea herring, smelts, and any fish, fresh or frozen, whether or not packed in ice and whether or not whole.	Free	2c per lb.	Free
Chick peas or garbanzos, and cowpeas not specially provided for.	Free	Free	Free
Shrimps, lobsters, and other shellfish, fresh or frozen (whether or not packed in ice), prepared or preserved in any manner (including paste and sauce), and not specially provided for.	Free	Free	Free
Truffles, fresh, or dried, or otherwise prepared or preserved.	25% ad val.	20% ad val.	Free

a House bill provided 30 per cent ad valorem on sturgeon and 20 cents per pound on other roe.

b Under present act frozen berries are dutiable as berries in their natural condition at 1½ cents per pound.

c Cowpeas are free of duty under present tariff. Under both House and Senate bill the dutiable weight of prepared or preserved beans is "the entire contents of the container."

d The dutiable weight under both House and Senate bill is "the entire contents of the container."

e Tomato paste is included in this item as "tomatoes prepared or preserved" under both House and Senate bill. The present duty on tomato paste is 40 per cent ad valorem.

f The rate is unchanged but language changed so as to remove ambiguity as to word "whole."

**Bahama Tomato Shipments to United States**

Shipments of tomatoes from the Bahamas to the United States from the opening of the 1929-30 shipping season in December to March 1, 1930, amounted to 3,203,709 pounds as compared with 8,334,629 pounds during the corresponding months in 1928-29.

Large quantities of vegetable seeds have been distributed by the Bahama government to farmers on the Island of New Providence and on the out islands during the recent months in the hope that farmers will gradually devote more attention to vegetable crops other than tomatoes. Cucumbers and string beans of good quality have already been produced for local consumption.

**Truck Crop Markets**

Shipments of apples from the Northwest increased during the week ended March 22, while eastern movement decreased, according to the U. S. Market News Service.

Florida shipments of tomatoes rapidly increased and imports from Mexico continued heavy. Mississippi and eastern Texas, which ship many tomatoes during May and June, are increasing their acreage this year.

Compared with last season, production of strawberries in Florida was considerably increased, but Louisiana is reported to have a 12 per cent lighter crop than in 1929. Alabama may have just about as many berries as last year. Louisiana shipments should now increase rapidly, and Florida shipments soon end.

Spinach output from southern Texas took on new life and shipments increased very sharply to 660 cars, with 37 from Virginia also.

String beans were slightly higher at Florida points, as carrot movement was restricted to 75 cars, including the first five of the season from the lower Valley of Texas.

California asparagus shipments doubled to a total of 165 cars, and the first car was reported from South Carolina.

Movement of carrots decreased to 315 cars for the week, but California cauliflower shipments increased.

Grapefruit forwardings were slightly heavier at 715 cars, of which Florida furnished 665. Shipments of oranges decreased to 1,410 cars, with California originating 850 and Florida 560 cars.

Opening of the cabbage season in South Carolina and increased movement from Florida and Texas seemed to take the edge off the market. South Carolina reported seven cars last week, while Texas and Florida were about equal at 235 each.

Combined movement of 23 important fruit and vegetables increased to 15,440 cars for the week, but was 1,560 lighter than a year ago.

## CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	Mar. 16-22	Mar. 9-15	Mar. 17-23	Total this season to Mar. 22	Total last season to Mar. 23	Total last season
Apples, total	1,185	1,220	1,185	94,815	131,499	127,550
Eastern states	523	598	479	48,048	60,018	58,708
Western states	662	622	656	46,365	61,881	64,822
Asparagus	167	85	59	281	76	2,110
Carrots	259	298	171	4,945	4,080	11,789
Cabbage	594	475	989	5,729	8,450	44,099
Cauliflower	398	812	273	7,899	7,893	9,889
Green peas:						
Domestic	84	84	55	884	894	5,168
Imports	18	38	39	2,110	1,817	1,851
Mixed vegetables:						
Domestic	708	725	891	7,920	9,188	22,445
Imports	21	20	8	269	147	218
Pears	77	53	28	20,639	24,213	24,489
Peppers:						
Domestic	54	48	96	417	656	2,239
Imports	16	18	25	330	489	568
Spinach	720	408	899	6,714	7,182	10,260
String beans	75	98	121	2,657	1,433	8,681
Tomatoes:						
Domestic	846	204	337	1,884	2,519	81,944
Imports	441	554	825	4,059	8,887	5,871

## Tomato Products Imports

Imports of canned tomatoes in February were about 42 per cent less than those of February, 1929, but tomato paste imports were about 26 per cent greater. The import figures for January and February as compiled by the Department of Commerce follow:

	1929	Canned Tomatoes		Tomato Paste	
		Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
January	11,584,855	\$691,913		658,689	\$117,092
February	16,070,274	695,850		951,929	116,938
Total	21,655,129	1,297,763		1,609,618	234,025
	1930				
January	8,939,178	427,845		1,825,369	129,824
February	5,884,813	288,425		1,050,588	68,842
Total	14,778,401	711,270		2,875,951	218,666

## Hawaiian Pineapple Crop

The heavy pineapple blossom during February and March indicates a summer pack during 1930 equal to or slightly exceeding that of last year, according to a radiogram dated March 20, 1930, received in the Department of Commerce from the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce.

## Canned Food Exports in February

Exports of canned meats, vegetables and condensed milk were larger in February of this year than in February, 1929, while other classes of canned foods showed declines. Detailed figures compiled by the Department of Commerce follow:

Articles	February, 1929		February, 1930	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total	1,459,545	\$530,865	2,449,485	\$883,001
Beef	279,483	184,802	204,187	98,658
Pork	823,486	324,714	1,088,048	820,854
Sausage	136,795	40,403	151,008	46,918
Other	214,900	67,148	225,811	72,995
Canned vegetables, total	5,294,586	\$26,314	5,587,263	\$30,607
Asparagus	1,080,929	160,785	951,929	158,113
Baked beans and pork and beans	637,118	60,047	595,658	25,418
Corn	384,812	31,514	876,153	60,298
Peas	489,786	43,886	795,111	65,948
Soups	1,201,560	120,649	1,061,738	115,864
Tomatoes	290,541	31,825	422,911	35,707
Other	1,120,020	72,607	1,179,695	71,789
Condensed milk	3,485,907	530,244	3,582,100	497,016
Evaporated milk	6,006,210	686,597	5,120,596	485,247
Canned fruits, total	27,072,470	2,490,850	23,852,688	2,530,686
Apples and applesauce	4,044,947	309,301	2,887,105	169,128
Apricots	2,065,179	201,298	2,601,942	245,947
Cherries	163,558	26,519	206,935	33,602
Fruit for salad	2,189,657	326,517	2,581,982	407,587
Loganberries	500,445	59,488	399,164	45,921
Other berries			155,916	19,978
Peaches	7,937,317	670,325	6,428,865	666,195
Pears	6,284,550	680,332	4,745,355	533,084
Pineapple	2,655,592	236,744	2,895,909	344,159
Prunes	218,982	19,065	84,560	12,245
Other	1,040,655	97,125	1,407,354	184,176
Salmon	2,381,774	200,169	1,242,459	245,307
Sardines	11,546,040	689,398	11,135,400	707,098

## Fruit Crop Prospects

Fruit growers will be interested in the comments regarding 1930 crop prospects, as recently published by the Department of Agriculture:

For the country as a whole, it would appear that the peach crop has been more or less damaged by the low temperatures during the past winter. The comments indicate crop injury generally through the northeastern and north central States, ranging from complete loss to fair condition. Comments from the southern States are more optimistic. In the Northwest, trees in certain areas have been damaged to some extent, with only fair prospects on the whole. Whether the reported damage is going to mean more than a good thinning of the fruit is difficult to determine at this early date.

It is too early to determine with any degree of certainty the effect of weather conditions the past winter on the apple trees. The general opinion expressed would not indicate any widespread injury to the trees. Comments on pears run about the same as on apples. No severe damage is evident as yet. In

some sections, cherries are reported to have suffered as much as peaches from the low temperatures of the past winter. In most sections, no definite information is yet available, but generally there does not now seem to be any widespread damage.

#### Evaporated and Condensed Milk Market

Evaporated milk markets during March continued in the favorable trend which was noted early during the previous month, and the tone again was steady to firm.

Instead of the seasonal increase in production the make of evaporated milk actually decreased during February, in comparison with both the previous month and the same month a year ago. Last year a gain of 1.5 per cent in the production of evaporated milk was recorded in February in comparison with January; this year the make was 1.7 per cent lighter. Production is also lighter when compared with the same month a year earlier. During December the make was 5.6 per cent heavier, during January 1.1 per cent lighter, and now during February 4 per cent lighter. This is in comparison with a decrease of 1.7 per cent in the make of butter, an increase of 7.2 per cent in the manufacture of cheese, and a decrease of 0.5 per cent in the production of condensed milk.

During February the total stocks of evaporated milk were reduced 22,760,000 pounds. This is in comparison with 35,740,000 pounds last month, 20,348,000 pounds during the same period a year ago, and a five-year average reduction of 12,765,000 pounds.

Condensed milk stocks on March 1 were 176 per cent heavier than a year earlier, while production during February was just slightly lighter than a year ago. This decrease in the make may be an attempt to offset the heavy stock situation. It also stands well in line with production decreases noted in other products.

#### Department Store Trade in February

Department store sales for February were 8 per cent smaller than in the corresponding month a year ago, according to reports to the Federal reserve system from 645 stores in 274 cities. Total sales from January 1 to February 28 were 4 per cent smaller this year than last year.

#### New Publication on Aphid Control

Following the severe losses sustained by many apple growers in New York last season from the rosy aphid, a publication

just made available at the State Experiment Station at Geneva on "The Rosy Aphid in Relation to Spray Practices in 1929" should prove of special interest at this time.

The rosy aphid is one of the most troublesome pests of New York apple orchards, resulting in malformation of the fruit and defoliation of the trees if allowed to go unchecked. Satisfactory control can be obtained by using the proper spray mixture at a time when the young aphids are hatching out and before the foliage has developed sufficiently to afford them shelter from the spray.

#### Business Conditions

Commercial transactions during the week ended March 22, as reflected by check payments, were larger than in the preceding week but declined from a year ago, according to the weekly statement of the Department of Commerce. Operations in steel plants during the latest reported week were on a lower level than in either the previous week or the same week of last year.

The general index of wholesale prices was fractionally lower than in the previous week, showing a decline also from a year ago.

Bank loans and discounts at the end of the week were higher than in either the previous week or the same period of the preceding year. Prices for stocks showed further recovery during the week but were lower than a year ago. Bond prices showed the most notable gain in months over both the preceding week and the corresponding period of last year. Interest rates for both time and call funds averaged lower than in either period.

Movement of commodities by rail, as shown by statistics covering the latest reported week, were lower than in the preceding week and the corresponding period a year ago.

#### CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	L. C. L.	Other
Week ended March 15 .....	881,187	356,776	282,265	272,146
Preceding week .....	873,548	387,554	250,888	285,656
Corresponding week, 1928 .....	926,601	382,057	280,959	315,255
Corresponding week, 1929 .....	992,572	361,842	386,933	370,457

#### Intended Acreage in Dry Edible Beans

Producers of dry edible beans were planning to increase plantings nearly 15 per cent over the acreage harvested last year, according to the March report of the Department of Agriculture. The indicated increases in Michigan and New York, which grow most of the small white pea beans, are 15 per cent and 10 per cent, respectively.

Colorado and New Mexico, which produce mainly Pintos, expect to increase plantings 20 per cent over the 1929 harvested area.

Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, which produce mainly the Great Northern, plan together an increase of about 10 per cent, with Idaho slightly above that figure, Wyoming planting much more, and Montana decreasing slightly.

An increase of about 8 per cent is expected in California plantings of all beans combined; with increases mainly in Limas, not much change in Pinks, Cranberries, and Small Whites, and decreases in Red Mexicans and Pintos.

#### Army Seeks Bids on Canned Foods

The Quartermaster Supply Officer of the army at Brooklyn, N. Y., is asking for bids, to be opened April 14, on subsistence supplies, including a quantity of canned foods. Copies of the schedule (Invitation No. 626-30-232) on which to submit bids may be obtained from the Quartermaster Supply Officer at Brooklyn.

#### Trade Practice Conference for Bottle Cap Manufacturers

The bottle cap manufacturers' industry has been authorized to hold a trade practice conference with the Federal Trade Commission. No time or place has yet been determined for the meeting. Seventy-five per cent of the volume of business will be represented.

Among subjects to be discussed at the conference are: Inducing breach of contract, imitation of trade marks or trade names, enticement of employees, defamation of a competitor or disparagement of his goods, threats of suit of patent or trade mark infringement, use of inferior materials, bribery and pooled or combination cars.

#### Early Spraying of Tomatoes Recommended

Healthier plants and more fruit will be the reward for early spraying of tomatoes for protection against the leaf spot disease which, if allowed to go unchecked, causes the leaves to drop prematurely with an accompanying loss in yield, according to the State Experiment Station at Geneva. The leaf spot disease usually starts in the plant bed before the young plants are set in the field, but is not recognized until after the plants are set out. Spraying the young plants in the greenhouse or cold frame with bordeaux mixture is recommended as a timely and effective means of controlling the disease satisfactorily.

**Seed Corn Should Be Tested**

Seed corn to be used for planting purposes this spring should be tested in order to make certain that it is suitable for planting, according to an announcement of the New York State Experiment Station at Geneva, as much of the corn saved last fall for seeding purposes has been found to be unfit for use. Lots of supposedly good seed corn tested recently at Geneva have shown as low as 32 per cent germination, while many other lots have tested only 60 to 70 per cent, it is said. Good seed corn should test 90 per cent or better, says the seed analyst. "These low tests are especially true of lots which have received no special care, such as artificial drying, last fall. Only corn that was fairly well matured last fall and which received good care later on shows the strong, vigorous vitality which will produce a profitable crop."

**Forecast of Porto Rican Grapefruit Pack**

According to information secured from the Porto Rico Fruit Exchange and forwarded by the American assistant trade commissioner at San Juan, it is estimated that the canned grapefruit pack in that island will amount to about 420,000 cases. During the first week or ten days of March grapefruit was ripening rapidly. Some growers, in fact, report that a quantity of it is dropping from the trees before it can be gathered and boxed. Prices for fresh fruit are reported not to be entirely satisfactory and packers are beginning to buy up some quantities which ordinarily would be shipped fresh. All canneries are reported to be working at full capacity at present, and if they continue to handle all that they can pack, it is believed by the Exchange that 450,000 cases may be reached.

**Pineapple Canning Project in Mauritius Revived**

The projected establishment of a pineapple canning industry in the Island of Mauritius has again been revived, according to the American assistant trade commissioner at Johannesburg, South Africa. The original scheme was regarded by the Government as being weak at some points and a special committee was appointed to inquire into the situation and make recommendations. This committee reported that there are ample areas suitable for the production of high-grade pineapple on a large industrial scale, and recommended that the best up-to-date plant should be procured and operated during the initial season, by a professional packer of the highest standing in respect of technical knowledge and practical experience.